



**M E D I A   R E L E A S E**  
STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JULY 21, 2008

CONTACT: TISHA CALABRESE-BENTON  
(865) 594-5442 OFFICE

**RED CLAY STATE PARK ANNOUNCES CHEROKEE DAYS OF RECOGNITION  
26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL EVENT FEATURES CHEROKEE TRADITIONS**

**Cleveland, Tenn.** - Red Clay State Park will host the 26<sup>th</sup> annual Cherokee Days of Recognition festival Aug. 2-3, featuring traditional Cherokee dance, food and arts. Activities will begin at 10 a.m. each day and run until approximately 5 p.m. The festival is free and open to the public.

Featured attractions will include Cherokee traditional and fancy dancers, storytelling, living history demonstrations and more. The annual Red Clay Open Blowgun Tournament is scheduled for Sunday, with men's, women's and youth divisions.

Cherokee arts and crafts will be demonstrated and sold both days. Cherokee foods also will be available, along with some old favorites.

Red Clay State Historic Park is located in the extreme southwest corner of Bradley County, just above the Tennessee-Georgia state line, and is the site of the last Cherokee Council meeting before the infamous Trail of Tears.

The park encompasses 263 acres of narrow valleys and forested ridges and features picnic facilities, a loop trail and amphitheater. The park also contains a natural landmark, the Blue Hole Spring, which arises from beneath a limestone ledge to form a deep pool that flows into Mill Creek. The Cherokee used the Blue Hole Spring as their water supply during council meetings.

For more information about Cherokee Days of Recognition or Red Clay State Park, visit the Web site at: [www.tnstateparks.com/RedClay/](http://www.tnstateparks.com/RedClay/) or call the park office at 423-478-0339.

###